



MEMBERSHIP FORM

To join ECHO, please complete the form below and return to:
ECHO P.O. Box 5015, Brighton BN50 9JR

Alternatively, you may e-mail admin@echo-evelina.org.uk or call **07943 625031**

Names of Parent/s _____

Address _____

Telephone number _____

Email address _____

Name of Child _____ Date of Birth _____

Child's particular heart condition _____

Has he/she had surgery? If so when? _____

Would you like to be included on our contact database and be invited to social events in your local area? YES NO

Would you like to be put in contact with other families in your local area?
YES NO

Would you be willing to offer support to other families? YES NO

Membership of ECHO is free, but if you would like to make a donation, however small, it would be very gratefully received.

Please visit www.echo-evelina.org.uk to donate online or discover other ways in which you can help ECHO.



Support for parents and families of heart-children treated at the Evelina Children's Hospital



Evelina Children's Heart Organisation

WELCOME TO ECHO!

ECHO supports the parents/carers, close family and children who are treated at the Evelina Children's Hospital, principally for Congenital Heart Defects. We provide information, friendship and moral support at all times but especially when parents may feel alone, isolated and desperate, or when they have immediate worries and concerns and need guidance or advice. We also support and befriend the children themselves as they grow into their teenage years and beyond, to help them take the first steps towards independence in their lives and in their attitude towards their heart condition. Our advocacy provides vital patient voice to help Guy's & St Thomas's NHS Foundation Trust shape its services for congenital heart disease.

Our services include:

Contact

We have a database of parents who are willing to talk to others about their experiences of life with their heart-child. Many of our members have found it invaluable to be able to talk to other parents in a similar situation to themselves.

Newsletter

We publish a newsletter three to four times a year, which is free to members. This features parents' stories, news updates and advice from the hospital, plus fundraising news and much more. The newsletter is also featured on the website.

Hospital

We regularly donate items of medical equipment and fund other facilities for the hospital. In particular, we have provided a comfortable Parents' room at the Evelina Children's Hospital, which is a relaxing environment for parents to retreat to whilst their child is staying on the Cardiac ward at the hospital.

Pre-natal

We have a pre-natal support programme, which includes regular one-day Parentcraft courses run by specialist Midwives at St. Thomas' Hospital, which are specifically for parents whose unborn child has been diagnosed with a heart defect and who will go on to be treated at the Evelina Children's Hospital. We also have 2 parents who are available at all times to offer pre-natal telephone support.

Website

www.echo-evelina.org.uk Our website contains news of up-and-coming events, fundraising activities and parents' stories, as well as links to medical information and other related websites. It also has a Message Board which is a great way for parents to give and receive support and friendship online.

Social events

We hold a Christmas party and Summer barbecue as well as various outings throughout the year. Our members often organise coffee mornings and other get-togethers in their local area. All these events offer the opportunity for our members to meet up and get to know other families.

Awareness

We try to raise awareness of the implications of living with a child with Congenital Heart Disease, within the community at large, within schools and within the health-care profession.

Information

We provide information for parents, advocacy, and sign-posting to other relevant organisations.

Support for Young People

We have a special section for young people aged between 11 and 18, called ETC (ECHO Teen Club), run by two Youth Development Volunteers. It has its own website and separate section within the newsletter, and regular outings are organised.

"Nearly three years after Samuel's surgery, ECHO is a very important organisation in our lives. We have made many great friends, who we treasure dearly and hope that we too can offer support to others facing the unknown." ROSIE

"Everyone's story is different, but also, often, uncannily similar. You know you haven't been alone." SHARON

"It wasn't until I found ECHO and realised that we weren't the only family going through this, that I began to cope with my son's heart condition." MANDY

"The parents on the ECHO forum are always so quick to respond, to share their own experiences, to support without judgement and to offer congratulations when there is cause to celebrate. They understand like no-one else can, and it's great to be able to tap into such a wealth of practical and emotional support, just when you need it"

